

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33, 34, 44-48, 51-54, and 58-62 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends Claims 33, 34, 52, 53, 58, and 59, cancels Claims 27-32, 35-43, 49, 50, and 55-57, and adds new Claims 61 and 62.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 44-48, 51, 54, and 60 are allowed, and that Claims 33, 34, 52, and 53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant has canceled Claims 55-57, which recited the feature that allegedly was not shown in the drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 55-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant has canceled Claims 55-57. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot.

Claims 27-32, 35-38, 49, and 58 were rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 13-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,489. Applicant has canceled Claims 27-32, 35-38, and 49 and amended Claim 58 to be dependent upon allowable Claim 33. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot.

Claims 27-29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 49, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takamine (U.S. 2002/0021195). Claims 30 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamine in view of Baier et al. (U.S. 6,353,372). Claims 39-43, 50, and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa et al. (JP 11-97966) in view of Shibata (EP 1 330 027).

Claims 27-32, 35-43, 49, 50, and 55-57 have been canceled, allowable Claims 33, 34, 52, and 53 have been amended to be in independent form including all of the

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features of the base claim and any intervening claims, and Claim 58 has been amended to be dependent upon allowable Claim 33. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the prior art rejections are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 33, 34, 44-48, 51-54, and 58-62 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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